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MUTANTS MAKE THE LAWS NOW!
JUNKPILE
JOINT OF
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HOWLING COMMANDO ACTION BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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MALIBU COMPUTER COLOR BY WOLFPACK

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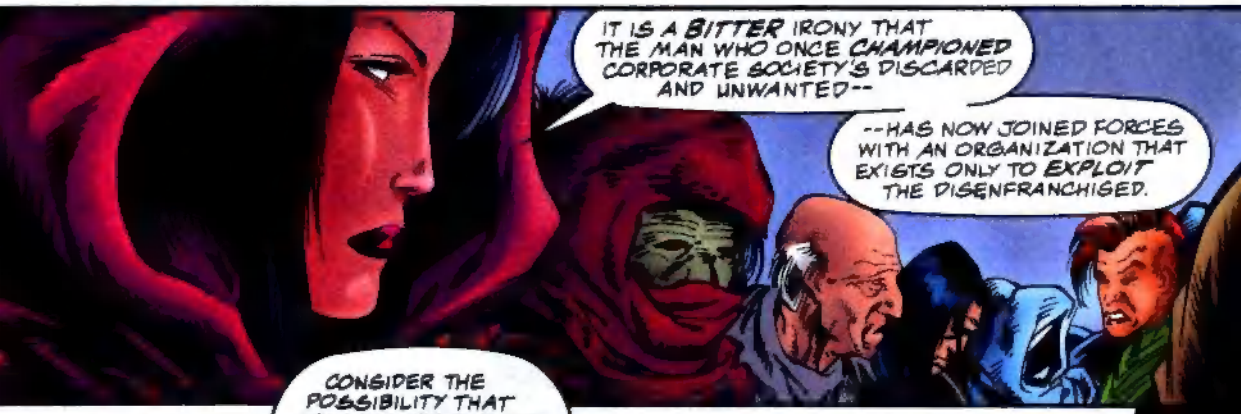
NO JOKE, PAL. AND THE NAME'S MORPHINE SOMERS.
AS THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S MINISTER OF HUMANITY, I'M IN CHARGE OF MUTANT AFFAIRS.
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO CARE?
I NEED MUSCLE FOR A RED MARKET CLEANUP IN DEATH VALLEY--
--AND YOU--WHILE NOT MY FIRST CHOICE--ARE EMINENTLY QUALIFIED FOR THE JOB.
YOU WANT ME TO BECOME SOME PUBLIC EYE PANTY-WAIST?
PAY ATTENTION. I'LL SPEAK SLOWLY.
I'M GIVING YOU THE CHANCE TO JOIN SHIELD--THE NATION'S ELITE SECURITY FORCE--
--YOU'LL OPERATE AUTONOMOUSLY AND WITH FULL ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTION--
--PLUS THE MEDICAL COVERAGE IS GREAT.
I DON'T NEED YOUR STUPID BADGE TO KICK BUTT--
FINISH
CLANG

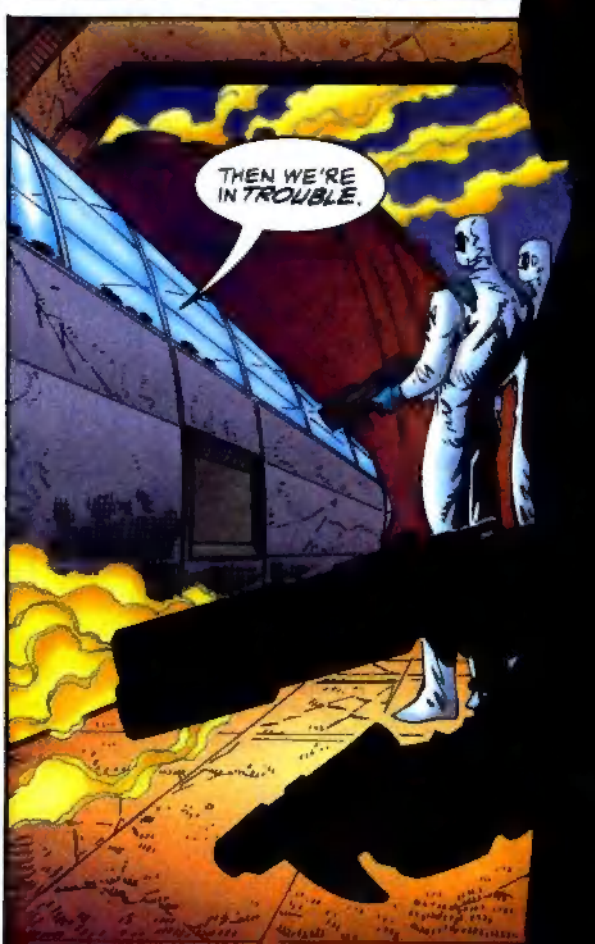
IN MY UNITED STATES YOU DO, MUTANT.
YOU MUST BE DOOM, RIGHT? I HEARD HOW YOU AND THE WAKANDANS BUZZBOMBED D.C.--
--BUT GET THIS STRAIGHT, MR. PRESIDENT-- JUNKPILE'S NOBODY'S ERRAND BOY.
WERE IT NOT FOR MY MINISTER'S FAITH IN YOUR ABILITIES--
--YOU WOULD STILL BE FUSED TO THE DECIMATED RUINS OF A STEALTH BUNKER--*
--UNABLE TO EXTRICATE YOURSELF FROM THE TON OF METAL YOUR TECHNO-ORGANIC METABOLISM COULD NOT SYNTHESIZE.
* DOOM 2099 #29.
** X-MEN 2099 #13.
THEREFORE, GRATITUDE WOULD BE A FAR MORE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.
YEAH... OKAY... I CAN SEE YOUR POINT...
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--"ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU...
TOTAL AUTONOMY?
YOU ANSWER ONLY TO MINISTER SOMERS AND MYSELF.

YOU ASKED FOR IT, YOU GOT IT.
FROM NOW ON, I AM THE LAW.
HEH. I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.
BELIEVE ME, BIG GUY, YOU'VE GOT YOUR WORK CUT OUT FOR YOU.
DEATH VALLEY.
FLOODGATE BIO-RESOURCE PROCESSING CENTER
THIS IS INSANE.
FLOODGATE IS THE THEATRE OF PAIN'S SLAUGHTER-HOUSE--
--WHERE THEY PROCESS AND PACKAGE HUMAN BEINGS FOR THEIR SADISTIC CLIENTELE.
WE ARE HIDING AMONG SHEEP BEING LED TO THE SLAUGHTER.

THEY WILL SEE THROUGH THESE FLIMSY DISGUISES, FITZ. THEY ARE METICULOUS IN THEIR SECURITY.
I KNOW HOW CAREFULLY THE THEATRE GUARDS ITS HOLDINGS. I WAS PART OF IT FOR FAR TOO LONG.
RIGHT NOW, LUNA, YOU, ME AND SHAKTI ARE JUST THREE ANONYMOUS FRINGERS WHO SOLD OUR BODIES ON THE RED MARKET.
THEY DON'T KNOW WE'RE COMING.
HAIKU SWORE WE WOULD FIND XI'AN AT FLOODGATE.

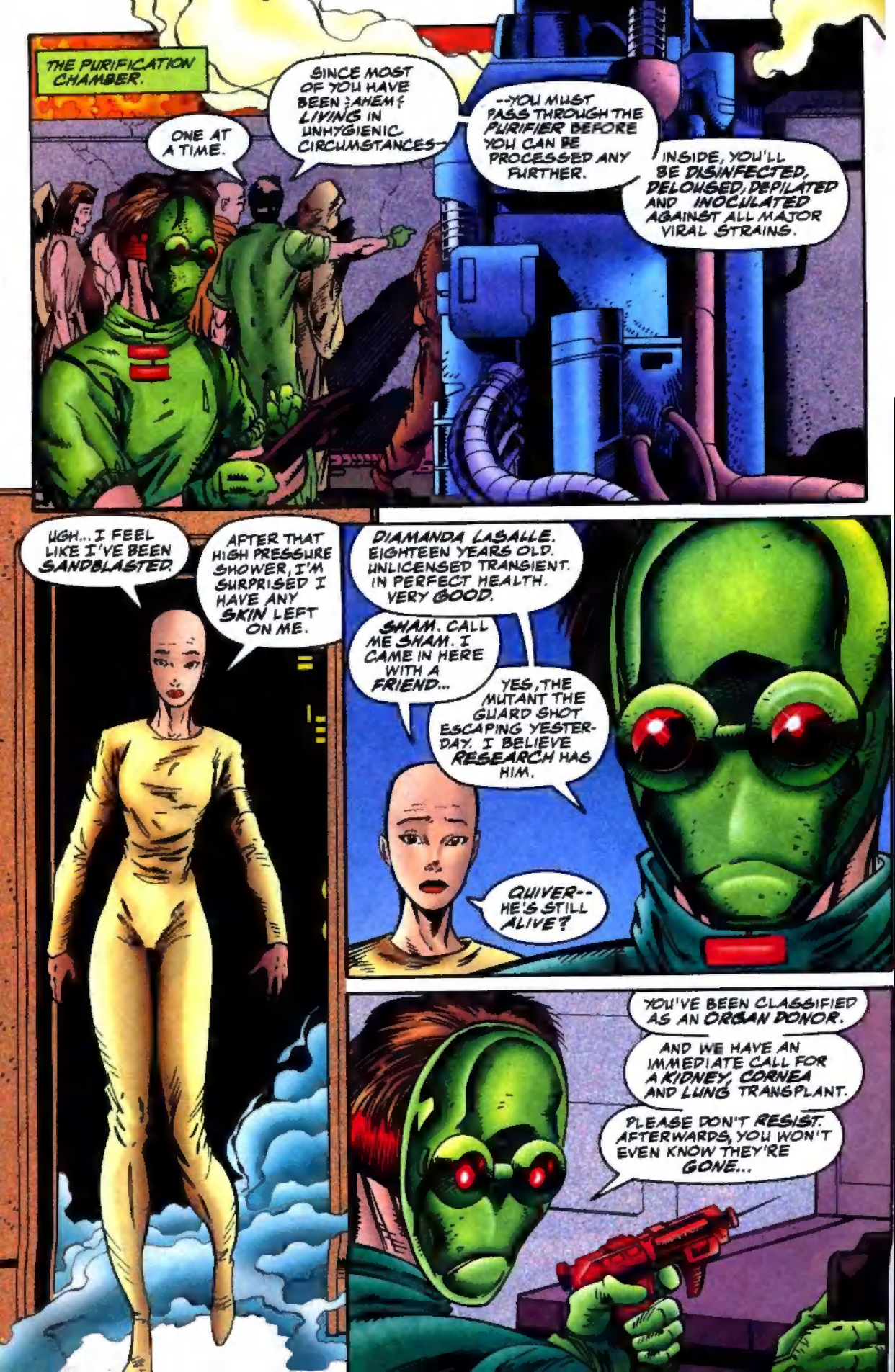

IT IS A BITTER IRONY THAT THE MAN WHO ONCE CHAMPIONED CORPORATE SOCIETY'S DISCARDED AND UNWANTED--
--HAS NOW JOINED FORCES WITH AN ORGANIZATION THAT EXISTS ONLY TO EXPLOIT THE DISENFRANCHISED.

CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT BRIMSTONE LOVE AND THE THEATRE HAVE SMOTHERED WHATEVER GOOD REMAINED IN XI'AN--
--AND THAT YOUR FORMER FRIEND AND ALLY IS NOW BEYOND REDEMPTION.
YOU ESCAPED THE THEATRE'S SWAY, LUNA.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SHOW XI'AN THE WAY OUT.
AND IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE?


THEN WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

WELCOME TO FLOODGATE.
PLEASE EXIT THE TRAM IN AN ORDERLY FASHION.
OUR GUARDS WILL DIRECT YOU TO THE EVALUATION CENTER WHERE YOUR PROCESSING WILL BEGIN.
YOU ARE REMINDED TO STAY WITHIN THE APPROPRIATE BOUNDARIES.
DISOBEDIENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. THANK YOU.
KEEP MOVING.
EVALUATION CENTER? BUTCHER SHOP IS MORE LIKE IT.
THIS PLACE TREATS PEOPLE LIKE MEAT.
AT LEAST THEY'RE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EXPLOITER.
WE'RE AMONG DEGENS, NOMADS, HEADCASES AND -- JUDGING BY THEIR TATTOOS -- A COUPLE OF PRISON TRANSFERS.
WHAP
HEY!
LOOKING TO START SOMETHING, LOWLIFE?
NO, SIR, NOT ME. I'M THRILLED TO BE HERE.
LUCKY FOR YOU.
KEEP A LOW PROFILE UNTIL WE CAN SEPARATE FROM THE CROWD.
WE DON'T WANT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO OURSELVES.

MORE BODIES. MORE GRIST FOR THE MILL.
THE DREGS OF SOCIETY FUNNEL THROUGH HERE EVERY DAY--
--BUT AT FLOODGATE, WE RECYCLE THIS HUMAN REFUSE. FIND USE FOR THEIR WASTED LIVES.
SOME HAVE BODY PARTS THAT CAN BE SALVAGED FOR THE WEALTHY.
OTHERS MAKE FINE SUBJECTS FOR MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION--
--WHILE STILL OTHERS ARE GROOMED FOR PRIVATE PLEASURE DENS.
THE FINEST OF THE LOT, HOWEVER, ARE ALWAYS RESERVED FOR THE THEATRE'S HIERARCHY.
YOU HAVE YOUR PICK, CONTROLLER X.
DIRECTOR DEMILLE, I WILL NEED PSYCH PROFILES OF FLOODGATE'S MOST EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED GUESTS.
IN ADDITION I WILL NEED TECHNICIANS TO HELP WITH MY PROJECT'S CONSTRUCTION.
I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT YOU INTEND TO USE THE MAINSTAGE.
FEW WOULD PRODUCE SUCH A LARGE SCALE PIECE FOR THEIR INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION.
I LIVE IN LARGE SCALE, DIRECTOR.
HOWEVER, I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE MINUTIAE OF YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
THOSE THREE NEW ARRIVALS ARE NOT THE LOST SOULS THEY WOULD HAVE YOU THINK.


THE PURIFICATION CHAMBER.
ONE AT A TIME.
SINCE MOST OF YOU HAVE BEEN ;AHEM; LIVING IN UNHYGIENIC CIRCUMSTANCES--
--YOU MUST PASS THROUGH THE PURIFIER BEFORE YOU CAN BE PROCESSED ANY FURTHER.
INSIDE, YOU'LL BE DISINFECTED, DELOUSED, DEPILATED AND INOCULATED AGAINST ALL MAJOR VIRAL STRAINS.
UGH... I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN SANDBLASTED.
AFTER THAT HIGH PRESSURE SHOWER, I'M SURPRISED I HAVE ANY SKIN LEFT ON ME.
DIAMANDA LASALLE. EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD. UNLICENSED TRANSIENT. IN PERFECT HEALTH. VERY GOOD.
SHAM. CALL ME SHAM. I CAME IN HERE WITH A FRIEND...
YES, THE MUTANT THE GUARD SHOT ESCAPING YESTERDAY. I BELIEVE RESEARCH HAS HIM.
QUIVER-- HE'S STILL ALIVE?
YOU'VE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS AN ORGAN DONOR.
AND WE HAVE AN IMMEDIATE CALL FOR A KIDNEY, CORNEA AND LUNG TRANSPLANT.
PLEASE DON'T RESIST. AFTERWARDS, YOU WON'T EVEN KNOW THEY'RE GONE...

STAY AWAY FROM ME!
WHAT? WHERE DID THOSE TENDRILS COME FROM?
FIGURE IT OUT, BUTCHER.
WHAT YOUR MACHINES FAILED TO TELL YOU IS I'M A MUTANT.
I'VE GOT ALL SORTS OF TRICKS UP MY SLEEVES.
AND WHILE YOU'RE DISTRACTED--
--I'LL TAKE THAT HYPO-GUN OFF YOUR HANDS BEFORE YOU HURT SOMEBODY--
AHHH
--MAINLY ME.
YOU CAN NEVER TRUST YOUR EYES AROUND ME.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO FIND MY FRIEND.

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION CENTER, LEVEL ONE.
ODD. THE GENETIC IMAGERS KEEP BROWNING OUT.
NOTIFY CENTRAL POWER, AND SEE IF THERE'S ANY SORT OF [redacted]
THE ANSWER TO [redacted] THEIR PROBLEM IS CLOSER THAN THEY SUSPECT.
I'M SIPHONING POWER FROM THE POWERLINES [redacted] THE FLOOR.
HOPEFULLY, THAT WILL GET US PAST ANY TECH THAT MIGHT IDENTIFY US AS MUTANTS.
DUE TO MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES, WE'LL HAVE TO [redacted] WITH [redacted] EVALUATION MANUALLY.
THE REST OF YOU WILL REMAIN TO THE RIGHT UNTIL OUR EQUIPMENT'S ON-LINE.
TOLD YOU WE WOULDN'T GET FAR.
BUT HOW DID THEY SPOT US?
THAT IS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF YOU THREE.
CAREFUL, MEN, THESE ARE ALPHA CLASS MUTANTS CONSIDERED TO BE DEADLY.
KRAK
GOT THAT RIGHT, BLOCKHEAD.

HERE'S ALL THE ENERGY THAT DIDN'T QUITE MAKE IT TO YOUR GENESCANNERS--
I CAN'T WAIT TO GIVE IT BACK!
BRRZZAK
ELEPHANT CLASS TRANQS. NOW!
THUNK
WHUMP
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, MUTIE. WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR PSYCHIC WHAMMY.
YOU COULD KNOCK ONE OF US OUT, BUT THE OTHERS WILL SPLATTER YOU AGAINST THE WALL.
YOUR CHOICE.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
YOU WERE IDENTIFIED BY A CONTROLLER AS UNDESIRABLES--
KRRRASH
THE ROOF--

UP AGAINST THE WALL, LAWBREAKERS-
EVERYBODY'S UNDER ARREST!
JUNKPILE AND HIS JUNKYARD DOGS ARE HERE TO SHUT THIS MEAT MARKET DOWN HARD!
GRRRRR
GRRRRRR
CH-WHOOM

PERSONALLY, I'M HOPIN' NONE OF YOU WANNA SURRENDER--
--'COZ I'M JUST GETTIN' HARMED UP--
--AND THE ROBOTIC PUPPIES DOOM PUT TOGETHER TO BACK ME UP--
--NEED THEIR EXERCISE.
CH'WHOOM
MY HEAD--
CROWF
NROOF
NOOO...
DON'T KNOW WHY JUNKPILE'S HERE--
--OR WHAT HE'S DOING IN A SHIELD UNIFORM--
--BUT HE'S BOUGHT ME A MUCH NEEDED DISTRACTION.
THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT ME WITH ONLY ONE GUARD.
UNFORTUNATELY, TIM AND LUNA MUST'VE [redacted] DRAGGED AWAY. JUST AS JUNKPILE BOMBED THROUGH THE ROOF.
I HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO LEAVE THEM ON THEIR OWN.
FINDING XI'AN'S MY FIRST PRIORITY.

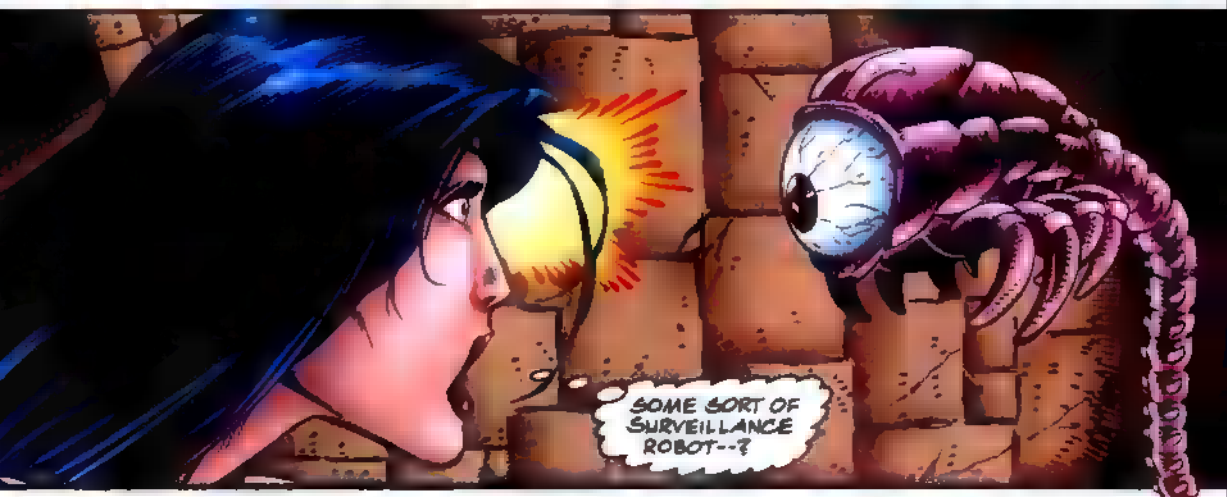
RESEARCH, SUB-LEVEL TEN.
PLEASE... STOP... HURT SO VERY MUCH...
... CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE...
STOP WHINING, MR. NAKADAI. YOU'RE HEALTHIER THAN YOU THINK.
WE'VE BARELY BEGUN TO EXPLORE YOUR MUTANT BODY'S PAIN
QUIVER.
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME...
TO EXTRACT THE ADRENALINE PRODUCED [redacted] DURING MOMENTS OF EXTREME [redacted] AND PAIN.
PUMPING ADRENALINE IS QUITE THE RAGE AMONG THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD IT.
PEOPLE PAY TO FEED ON THE SUBSTANCE OF GENUINE FEAR.
GET AWAY FROM HIM, YOU VULTURE!
???
PSYCHED! YOU FELL FOR MY ILLUSION!
HRK!
FFFFF

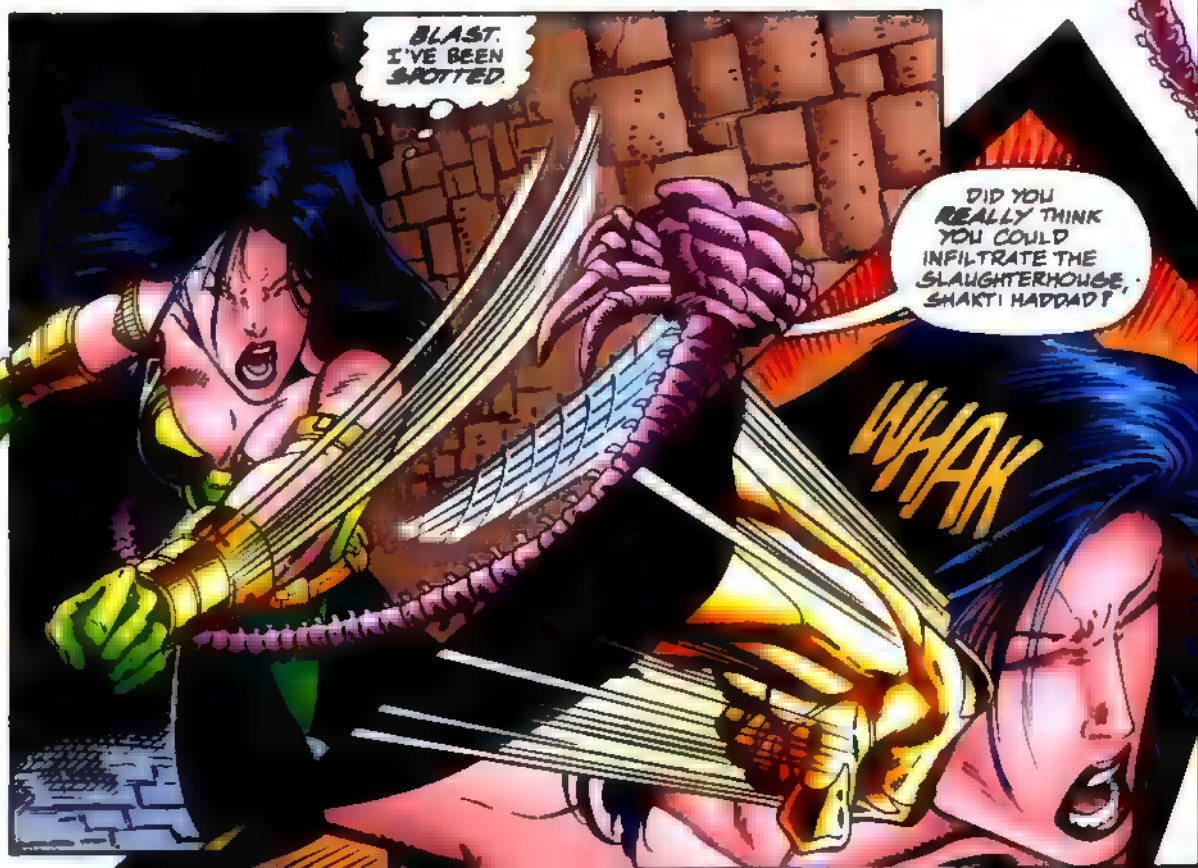
Y'KNOW, WHEN [redacted] JAM THE INJECTION PRESSURE GAUGE ON THE [redacted] HYPO-GUNS--
-- THE TRANQ-COATED NEEDLES CAN TRAVEL SOME SERIOUS DISTANCE.
...I'M DOGGING YOU...NO MORE...
QUIVER... RENTARO... IT'S ME...
SHAM?
WHO ELSE, PAL? I PROMISED I'D STICK BY YOU.
...THEY DID THINGS TO ME... HORRIBLE THINGS...
THAT'S WHAT THESE VAMPIRES WANT.
THEY'RE SADISTS WHO PREY ON WEAKNESS AND CONFUSION.
BUT WE'RE [redacted] STRONG FOR THEM. WE'RE UNSTOPPABLE.
SHAM, YOU SHOULD LEAVE ME HERE. YOU HAVE A BETTER CHANCE ALONE. I'LL JUST SLOW YOU--
SHUT UP, QUIVER. YOU'D DO THE SAME FOR ME, AND YOU KNOW IT.
[redacted] BAY'S JUST AROUND THIS CORNER --
-- ONCE WE HOTWIRE A SPEEDER, THEN WE'RE OUT OF--
UGNH...

QUIVER, STAY BEHIND ME...
I'LL KEEP THIS SLAUGHTERHOUSE FRAU OCCUPIED.
YOU ARE MISTAKEN, GIRL. I'M NOT ONE OF THE--
LIAR! THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL PREVENT US FROM LEAVING THIS TORTURE CHAMBER.
OF THAT I HAVE NO DOUBT--
BUT IF YOU INTEND TO FRIGHTEN ME--
--YOU'LL HAVE TO [redacted] BETTER THAN LIGHT PROJECTIONS.
YOU KNEW IT WAS AN ILLUSION?
I RECOGNIZE THE MANIFESTATION OF MUTANT ABILITY AS EASILY AS I CAN SENSE THE PRESENCE OF A MUTANT.
LIKE YOU AND YOUR COMPANION.
LIKE ME. MY NAME'S SHAKTI.
AND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME TRUST YOU? FOR ALL I KNOW YOU COULD [redacted] THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE'S JUDAS GOAT.
STAY OUT OF OUR WAY, SISTER.
I TRUST HER, SHAM. SHE DOESN'T BELONG HERE EITHER.
SHAM'S GONNA GET US OUT OF HERE. YOU SHOULD COME WITH US.

THANK YOU FOR THE OFFER, BUT I CANNOT GO WITH YOU. I'M SEARCHING FOR SOME ERRANT FRIENDS.
GOOD LUCK. YOU WILL RIGHT IN TRYING TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.
YOUR FUNERAL.

I HOPE THEY MAKE IT. THEY ARE YOUNG. THEY DESERVE A BETTER FATE.
ONCE I LOCATE XI'AN, I AM GOING TO DO MY BEST TO SHOOT THE THEATRE DOWN. THIS KIND OF INHUMANITY MUST NOT CONTIN--


SOME SORT OF SURVEILLANCE ROBOT--?


BLAST. I'VE BEEN SPOTTED.
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD INFILTRATE THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE, SHAKTI HADDAD?
WHAK

THE THEATRE OF PAIN METICULOUSLY GUARDS ITS PRIVACY--
--AND WILL NOT EASILY FORGIVE YOUR TRESPASS.
THE CADENCE OF YOUR VOICE IS DISTORTED BEHIND YOUR MASK.
--BUT A MASK CANNOT HIDE YOUR IDENTITY FROM ME--
--XI'AN.
I AM THE CONTROLLER MARKED X.
XI'AN CHI XAN IS DEAD.
I WOULDN'T BE HERE IF I BELIEVED THAT...

YOU ARE FASTER THAN WHEN XI'AN LEFT YOU.
YOUR TRAINING HAS PAID OFF.
BUT YOU REMAIN OUT-MATCHED.
SLAM
YOU ARE UNWELL, XI'AN.
THE THEATRE HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THAT FACT TO MANIPU-LATE YOU.
UNDERSTAND, I AM HERE TO HELP YOU--
--WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR--
SSHWIPP
WHAT-- THE SENTRY'S SPINE?
YOU ARE SLOWED BY COMPASSION.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT EMOTION IS AN ENEMY.
WHUMP
YOU ARE FORTUNATE, SHAKTI HADDAD.
OTHERS WOULD BE DEAD NOW, BUT YOU WILL BE SPARED.
THE THEATRE HAS NEED OF YOUR TALENTS.

LEVEL THREE.
OH YEAH, I'VE GOT THESE REDMARKET REDNECKS ON THE RUN--
BOOM
I LOVE BEIN' AN OFFICIALLY SPONSORED ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION--
--WITH A LICENSE TO BEND, FOLD, MUTILATE AND SPINDLE.
CLANG
RROOWF?
THIS IS THE BEST THE LATVERIAN COULD SEND AGAINST FLOODGATE?
WHOOOSH
PATHETIC.
LOOKS LIKE THEY FINALLY BROUGHT OUT THE HEAVY ARTILLERY.

WANT TO TELL ME YOUR NAME BEFORE I PLASTER YOU AGAINST A WALL?
I AM BRIMSTONE LOVE.
YOU ARE A FOOL IF YOU THINK THAT BADGE GIVES YOU JURISDICTION HERE.
FLOODGATE BELONGS TO THE THEATRE OF PAIN.
WE HAVE SURVIVED FOR CENTURIES -- THROUGH THE RISE AND FALL OF NUMEROUS GOVERNMENTS.
WE WILL OUTLAST THE CURRENT ONE AS WELL.
PRETTY SMUG FOR SOMEONE WHO'S ABOUT TO GET THEIR THROAT RIPPED OUT.
GET HIM BLUE!
GRRRRR
MORON.
YOU'VE NO IDEA OF THE POWER YOU FACE.
THE GEO-THERMAL ENERGY OF THE EARTH BURNS LIKE A FURNACE WITHIN ME.
FAWOOSH

THAT WASN'T JUST MY DOG YOU SLAGGED, HOT STUFF--
--THAT DOG BELONGED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
AND IN MY BOOK, DESTROYIN' GOVERNMENT PROPERTY'S A CAPITAL OFFENSE.
THIS LOUDMOUTHED ARROGANCE WILL GET YOU KILLED, MUTANT--
I PROMISE YOU THAT.
THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL